

Gateway School District

DR. WAYNE W. DOYLE/Superintendent

2609 Mosside Boulevard
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 373-5700 • FAX (412) 373-5731

April 16, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Reed:

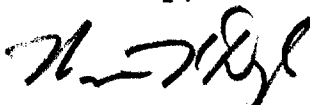
Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nations technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demand and that our workforce will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,



Wayne W. Doyle
Superintendent of Schools

WWD:amz

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EL MONTE CITY

3540 North Lexington Avenue



SCHOOL DISTRICT

El Monte, California 91731-2684 • (818) 453-3700

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

JEFF SEYMOUR.....District Superintendent
JOYCE ROEBUCK.....Deputy Superintendent
Business, Personnel & Administrative Services
ARMENÉ CHAYDARIAN.....Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
CARLOS MANRIQUE.....Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. BONNIE JIMENEZ.....Clerk
MR. STEPHEN D. HAKE.....Member
MRS. SUSAN WELDON.....Member

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am superintendent of the El Monte City School District, and would like to thank you for your efforts in making access to the Information Superhighway a reality for all school districts and educational consortia.


The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The deep discounts will allow this school district to link not only every school and media center to the Internet, but also to link every classroom more rapidly than we have previous imagined. The savings would allow us to add classroom linkages on an on-going basis until every classroom in this district is linked and every child has access to the rich resources of the Internet.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for services to schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jeff Seymour, District Superintendent

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of General Counsel

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Frankfort Public Library District

TRUSTEES

Vicki Baker - President
Joan Romanus - Vice President
Michelle Caputo - Treasurer
Jeanne Lombaer - Secretary
Jeanne DeRaimo
Kay MacNeil
Carolyn B. Thompson
Lorraine M. Novak - Administrative Librarian

April 16, 1997

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21119 S. Pfeiffer Road
Frankfort, IL 60423-9302
Phone: (815) 469-2423
Fax: (815) 469-9307

Hon. Reed Hundt - Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for the telecommunications and *critical, non-telecommunications* services necessary to assure that *all* of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn, and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools -- and -- ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine M. Novak".

Lorraine M. Novak
Administrative Librarian

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

2333 Guntly Rd.
Philo, CA 95466
April 15, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054
CC Docket No 96-45
Dear Chairman Hundt

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APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

I am writing in support of educational discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries in rural remote areas so that every child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information. The Telecommunications Act -- through its Universal Service fund provisions -- mandates that development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so we can get services at affordable prices.

It is so important that our students are able to access the information that will enable them to participate in today's world of information and tomorrow's workplace. We also need to train our adults -- many of whom are not computer literate -- to participate in this new age of telecommunications. In Anderson Valley, a rural remote valley in Northern California, there are few places where adults are able to learn about this new technology. It is important that our antiquated library system be allowed to use this new tool and to provide the only access for many people.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our schools and libraries significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all our kids and our citizens.

Sincerely,



Val Muchowski

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 16, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 814

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am writing to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I write as Head of School of West Nottingham Academy, an independent boarding and day school.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Baker
Head of School

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CC96-45

President
Harry Guenther
Executive Director
Steve Protulis



National Council of Senior Citizens

1331 F Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20004-1171 • (202) 624-9549 • FAX (202) 624-9547
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1200 • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3314 • (301) 578-8800 • Fax (301) 578-8999

April 17, 1997

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

No other group of American consumers has as great a stake in the fair and efficient direction of telecommunications development than does the Nation's forty million senior citizens and their families. They want, need and deserve a telecommunications marketplace that will guarantee to them affordable access to the telecommunications systems in their communities.

While competition should lead to lower consumer costs, that competition must be tempered by clear public policy that assures universal service in every market at a price that will fit fixed incomes. Your pending decisions on rules regarding universal service and access charges are crucial to seniors.

NCSC supports FCC policies that will not destabilize local phone companies through unwise access charge changes. Those companies must remain competitive to underpin their ability to continue both affordable universal access and service improvements to household consumers.

Thank you for your interest in the needs of the Nation's seniors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steve Protulis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping "P" for the last name.

Steve Protulis
Executive Director

cc: Commissioners Rachelle Chong, Susan Ness and James Quello

OPEIU 2 AFL-CIO

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OCEAN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY 08226

DONALD E. DEARBORN, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT

801 ASBURY AVENUE

TELEPHONE: 609-399-5150

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APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As Superintendent of the Ocean City Public Schools, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow. The discounts will allow our district to utilize our funds for further expansion of technology to every student.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Dearborn, Ed.D.
Superintendent

DED/lrb

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Linda Davidson, Librarian
Georgetown Public Library
107 E. West Street
Georgetown, IL 62426

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April 14, 1997

APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW-Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries/ Schools

Dear Honorable Hundt:

I strongly support meaningful discounts for libraries and schools, as envisioned by the Federal-State Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

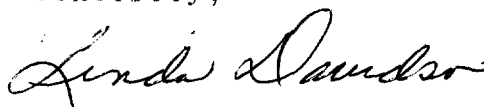
These Rules allow for discounted telecommunication and critical non-telecommunication services necessary to keep all public libraries and schools connected to the internet and other on-line resources. These services are sometimes, in our small towns, the only access many people have.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 clearly intended broad access, but without significant discounts, the schools and library in Georgetown will not be able to purchase the internal wiring for connection.

The Joint Board also recommended wide competition for the discounted service. Telecommunication and non-telco carriers should be encouraged to vie for business throughout the state, rural or urban, to keep user costs down.

Thank you for your attention to this matter on behalf of our library and schools. Feel free to advise if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Linda Davidson, Librarian
Georgetown Public Library

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

CELESTE ENGELS, PRINCIPAL

BOX 197

BLAKESLEE, OHIO 43505

419-272-2914

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 11, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

St. Joseph School's "no frills" budget is primarily funded with minimal tuition fees, parish subsidies and outside fund raiser events. Since Catholic schools are excluded from most local/state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware, we are at a disadvantage to begin with. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classrooms are at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts on access to computers and connectivity.

St. Joseph School is making an attempt to integrate technology into the curriculum. We have one computer at this time with Internet access and have hook ups in two other rooms for additional access.

Two years ago, a technology plan was developed. Our goal is to have enough computers to accommodate any grade level in the school and to provide Internet access to each classroom. Without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services will not be affordable for our school.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Celeste Engels

Mrs. Celeste Engels
Principal

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BURTON PETERS, PRESIDENT
KERRI KIEWER, VICE PRESIDENT
RONALD REGIER, SEC. TREAS.

GLEN OTT
AUDRUN SIEBERT
HOMER PETERS

Henderson Community School

BLAINE FRIESEN
Secondary Principal

DR. NORMAN E. YODER
Superintendent

RONALD PAULS
Elementary Principal

Box 626 • HENDERSON, NEBR. 68371 • (402) 723-4434 • FAX (402) 723-4431 • e-mail: nyoder@esu6.esu6.k12.ne.us

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April 14, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

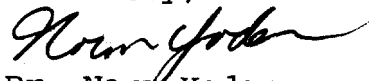
I am a superintendent from Henderson Community School, Henderson, Nebraska, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

These discounts will assist us in being able to continue offering internet services and distance learning classroom, although we are experiencing major reduction in funding because of current legislation.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,



Dr. Norm Yoder
Superintendent

NY:dk

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Mission Statement: All individuals will learn in a positive environment that assures the creative development and mastery of the decision-making skills necessary for personal growth and cooperative participation in an ever-changing world.

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

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Rushford-Peterson Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 239 • BOX 627 RUSHFORD, MINNESOTA 55971 • FAX 507-864-2085

DAVID U'REN
Superintendent
507-864-7785

BRAD JOHNSON
High School Principal/Activities Director
507-864-7786

MARY L. ALLEN
Middle School Principal
507-875-2238

BRUCE BLIXT
Elementary Principal
507-864-7787

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the superintendent from the Rushford-Peterson School District #239 and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

At Rushford-Peterson Schools, we are working with buildings that were built in the teens of this century, the thirties, the fifties, sixties and seventies. Even our newest building is not wired for electronic communications or even adequately for electricity for that matter. To bring the advantages of the Internet to our students, we must first spend a great deal of our resources on the infrastructure. What capital remains for the connection to a WAN and the internet fees is precious little.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you!

Educationally yours,

David U'Ren
Superintendent of Schools
Rushford-Peterson School District #239

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San Bernardino City Unified School District

E. Neal Roberts, Ed.D., Superintendent



Your Public Schools . . .

There's No Better Place To Learn

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April 11, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

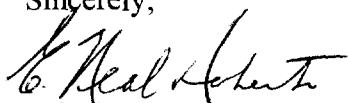
I am the Superintendent of the San Bernardino City Unified School District, located in Southern California. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our District is the 10th largest in California and is characterized as a large urban district with over 70% of our students participating in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program. Almost 25% of our students are English Language Learners. As you can see from this brief sketch of the District, our students must have needed exposure to a world of information beyond their city. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to our District.

This plan would provide our District the needed funding opportunity to put in place an infrastructure (classroom and school wiring) to allow for connectivity to the Internet and additional distance-learning opportunities.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you for your support to the resources of our future.

Sincerely,


E. NEAL ROBERTS
Superintendent

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

777 N. F Street • San Bernardino, CA 92410 • (909) 381-1240



HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am Diana Coulton Beebe, Head of The Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connects for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Students at Holton-Arms are set to use the Internet in classrooms, labs and our school libraries. They need discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries all over this country.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

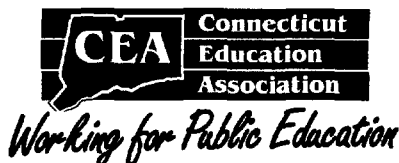
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Coulton Beebe".

Diana Coulton Beebe
Head of School

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Daria M. Plummer, President
Patti Ralabate, Vice President
Rosemary Coyle, Secretary
Robert Hiscox, Treasurer



Capitol Place, Suite 500, 21 Oak Street
Hartford, CT 06106-8001
860-525-5641/1-800-842-4316
FAX 860-725-6323

John Czepiel, NEA Director
Marian Galbraith, NEA Director

Dr. John Yrchik, Executive Director

April 11, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the President of the Connecticut Education Association, a 30,000 member labor and professional organization, affiliated with the National Education Association. Our membership is comprised of K-12 teachers. I commend you on your support of the Joint Board's recommendation regarding the so-called "e-rate" for schools and libraries, which stems from the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Having attended the NEA/EdLiNC symposium in February, you are aware of the support that this matter has from the education community in general, and NEA affiliates specifically. In addition to this issue's general appeal to the education community, I would like to perhaps add another dimension of its appeal in Connecticut. The Connecticut legislature is currently grappling with a State Supreme Court decision in which the Court stated that the state had an affirmative obligation to remedy de facto segregation in public schools (*Sheff v. O'Neill*). The case originated in Hartford and much attention is focused specifically on Hartford. The issue is attended by intense controversy.

The vast majority of children in Connecticut's urban municipalities are minorities. An unacceptably high proportion of them live in poverty and cultural isolation. For these children advanced and affordable telecommunications in schools may become the liberating force that automobiles were to earlier generations of Americans. Indeed, while we struggle to meet the challenges of urban blight, crime, abandonment, drugs, and other impediments to quality education in our cities, we can use telecommunications technology to make a small but important step toward integration.

As we are just now beginning to envision the benefits of advanced telecommunications for schooling, we should be mindful of this technology's ability to support cultural diversity and encourage understanding among students and teachers in very different milieus. I strongly urge you do whatever is necessary to implement the precepts of the USF component of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Sincerely,

Daria M. Plummer
President

DMP:mmt
HUNDT.DOC

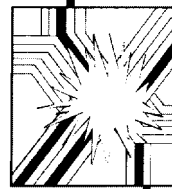
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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**THE • CENTER • FOR
ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGIES**



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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am an instructional designer from the Center for Advanced Technologies, Altoona, Pennsylvania, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Center for Advanced Technologies, a nationally recognized technology education center, will then be better able to ensure that all of the classrooms through our district will be affordably connected to the Internet. It is important for our educators in Altoona to prepare our students to exit school with the technology skills they will need to survive in the workplace. It is vitally important for the economic development of our "rust belt" region to encourage the settlement of new business's in Altoona. This can only be accomplished with a technology enriched local workforce. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will help guarantee our regions growth.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Huey O'Brien
Instructional Designer

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Dear Reed Hundt

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for the telecommunications and *critical, non-telecommunications* services necessary to assure that *all* of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools – and – ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

FINAL PARAGRAPH FOR LETTERS TO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES:

Please help us convey these recommendations to the members of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) on our behalf. We would appreciate – and look forward to – receiving a copy of any correspondence you might send to the FCC and ICC on this matter.

Sincerely,

Debra S. Derby

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APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Public & Regulatory

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a classroom teacher from the Kirkwood School District in St. Louis, Missouri, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Lisa Sienkiewicz

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a classroom teacher from Northwest R-1, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brenda Grosvenor

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April 14, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a classroom teacher from Hancock Place, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Patricia Hagedorn

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**The
Calhoun
School**

**A Century
of Excellence
1896-1996**

Elementary, Middle
and Upper Schools
433 West End Avenue
New York, NY 10024
Tel 212 877-1700
Fax 212 877-2450

Lower School
160 West 74th Street
New York, NY 10023
Tel 212 721-0990
Fax 212 721-2012

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14 April 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the Technology Coordinator of the Calhoun School, and I would like to thank you for your work with the Federal Communications Commission. I am concerned, however, that the Telecommunications Act may not continue to include the proposed education rate, which would provide affordable access to the Internet and the World Wide Web for all schools and libraries.

Today's technology can provide rich resources for students. Unfortunately, it can also serve to widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots." It is imperative that we, as educators and policy makers, do not further contribute to this bifurcation. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The discount will address the needs of all schools, and the inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our students - those at Calhoun, and at schools throughout New York City - need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Reiner
Technology Coordinator
The Calhoun School

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Spring Hill

Unified School District #230

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Board of Education Office
101 E. South Street, Spring Hill, KS 66083
phone: 913/592-7205 fax: 913/592-7270
e-mail address: ksshdo@unicom.net

Dr. Barton L. Goering, Superintendent
Dr. Dan Lumley, Assistant Superintendent
Myrna Morrison, Business Manager/Treasurer
Karen Meireis, Clerk of the Board

April 4, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
191 M. Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR 21 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am the school board president for Spring Hill Unified School District No. 230 in Spring Hill, Kansas. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our district has been using grant funds to equip classrooms and labs with up-to-date computer equipment. Now we need help to allow our students to learn and communicate globally.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Mrs Katie Fisher

Mrs. Katie Fisher
Board President

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Board of Education

Katie Fisher, President • Carmen Ellis, Vice President
Craig Drummond, Member • Frank Healy, Member • William Meek, Member • Bob Metcalf, Member



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DETROIT BOARD OF EDUCATION

5057 WOODWARD AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

HONORABLE IRMA CLARK
President
Member, Voting District 3

(313) 494-1270
Fax (313) 494-1378

April 5, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR 21 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As president of the Detroit Board of Education, I want to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Detroit Public Schools is involved in a 15-year capital improvement project that will transform our 263 schools into institutions designed for 21st Century learning. If we are to successfully create that environment, we will need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Irma Clark, President
Detroit Board of Education

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School District of Beloit

Committed to Excellence • Strengthened by Diversity

Rosa A. Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent

April 14, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman:

Thank you for your efforts and consideration of using a portion of the Universal Service Fund for establishing an "e-rate" telecommunications discount for schools.

Our district is fortunate to have the cooperation of the local college to share a T-1 line which is connected to our high school. By sharing the line our cost is \$865 per month, a savings of \$455 per month by not having our own line. As both Beloit College and our use grows, the sharing of one line will no longer be feasible. The rest of our fifteen schools are connected to the high school with ISDN lines for an annual cost of \$14,000. The combined annual cost of \$24,400 is providing only second rate service to two-thirds of our population of 7,000 students.

Recently one of our school board members questioned the value of the Internet in classroom instruction. His comment was not intended to discount the value of the Internet for instruction, but to highlight down time as students and teachers wait for connections to be made and information to be accessed. Unfortunately, he's right! Second-rate telecommunication infrastructure will waste many hours of instructional time for each student every year. We can ill afford to ignore or obscure the current situation. Students, eager to learn will soon be turned-off if we are unable to provide them with appropriate and responsive learning opportunities.

The proposed recommendation by the Federal-State Joint Board will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide appropriate distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion will only help to address the needs of all our schools and bring services directly to the classroom. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

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Schools across the country are under tremendous fiscal pressure to keep budgets low. Beloit has already eliminated over \$2.5 million from it's already fairly austere budget. Summer school has been eliminated, facility repair and upkeep curtailed, a number of support positions eliminated and supply and equipment budgets are down 25% from four years ago. Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service to schools.

Sincerely,

Rosa A. Smith

Rosa A. Smith, Ph.D.